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**5 CFR Ch. VI (1–13 Edition)**

civilian or uniformed services TSP participant account. However, tax-exempt money attributable to combat zone contributions cannot be transferred from a uniformed services beneficiary participant account to a civilian TSP participant account.

(n) *Multiple beneficiary accounts.* Each beneficiary participant account is maintained separately from all other beneficiary participant accounts. If an individual has multiple beneficiary participant accounts, each of the individual's beneficiary participant accounts will have a unique account number. A beneficiary participant must file separate interfund transfers and/or withdrawal requests and submit separate beneficiary designation forms for each beneficiary participant account that the TSP maintains for him or her. A beneficiary participant account cannot be combined with another beneficiary participant account.

[75 FR 78879, Dec. 17, 2010, as amended at 77 FR 26428, May 4, 2012]

**PART 1653—COURT ORDERS AND  
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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8432d, 8435, 8436(b), 8437(e), 8439(a)(3), 8467, 8474(b)(5) and 8474(c)(1).

SOURCE: 68 FR 35510, June 13, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

**Subpart A—Retirement Benefits  
Court Orders**

**§ 1653.1 Definitions.**

(a) Definitions generally applicable to the Thrift Savings Plan are set forth at 5 CFR 1690.1.

(b) As used in this subpart:

*Court* means any court of any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands, and any Indian court as defined by 25 U.S.C. 1301(3).

*Effective date of a court order* means the date it was entered by the clerk of the court or, if the order does not show a date entered, the date it was filed by the clerk of the court or, if the order does not contain a date entered or a date filed, the date it was signed by the judge.

*Payment date* refers to the date on which earnings are determined and is generally two business days prior to the date of an award's disbursement.

*Retirement benefits court order or order* means a court decree of divorce, annulment or legal separation, or a court order or court-approved property settlement agreement incident to such a decree. Orders may be issued at any stage of a divorce, annulment, or legal separation proceeding.

*TSP investment earnings or earnings* means both positive and negative fund performance attributable to differences in TSP fund share prices.

[68 FR 35510, June 13, 2003, as amended at 74 FR 63063, Dec. 2, 2009]

**§ 1653.2 Qualifying retirement benefits  
court orders.**

(a) To be qualifying, and thus enforceable against the TSP, a retirement benefits court order must meet the following requirements:

(1) The order must expressly relate to the Thrift Savings Plan account of a TSP participant. This means that:

(i) The order must expressly refer to the "Thrift Savings Plan" or describe the TSP in such a way that it cannot